

THE
Batchelor's Estimate
OF THE
EXPENCES
OF A
MARRIED LIFE

In a LETTER to a FRIEND.

Being an ANSWER to a Proposal of Marrying a
LADY with 2000*l.* Fortune.

Hæc Nôsse salus est Adolescentulis. Ter.

The THIRD EDITION.



L O N D O N :

Printed for T. PAYNE at the Crown in Ivy-Lane,
near Pater-noster Row. M.DCC.XXIX.

THE
Bachelor's Estimate

OF THE

EXPERIENCES

MARRIED LIFE

IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND

Being an Answer to a Proposal of Marriage
Made with some Reasons

By the Author of the

The Third Edition



LONDON

Printed for T. Parker at the Crown in St. John's Lane
near St. Paul's Church



Batchelor's Estimate

Expences of a Marriage Life, &c.

S I R,



O the Proposal you made me (for which I acknowledge the Obligation, because I am sure it proceeded from your good Opinion of me) I return the following Answer.

You propose I should marry your Relation, who is worth 2000*l.* down, which is indeed a handsome Fortune, and such, that I have the Modesty to think I do not deserve, yet at present cannot accept of the Proposal, because the following necessary Expences arise so frequently, and so openly to my View, that I must own, whenever I have thought of Matrimony, they have (contrary to my real Inclination) deterred me from entring into that agreeable State.

B

I now

I now live in Chambers which cost me 12 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> a Year, as soon as married I must take a House, which I cannot have suitable to me and my Business under 50 <i>l.</i> so that there will be a yearly Increase in House-Rent only	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>37</td><td>10</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	37	10	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
37	10	00					

Church, Window and Poor's Taxes, Payments to Rector, Reader and Lecturer, Water, Trophy-Money, Militia, Lamp, Scavengers, Watch, Constable, &c. which I am now free from, must be paid, which cannot amount to less than	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>09</td><td>00</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	09	00	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
09	00	00					

Expences of Tea, Coffee, Chocolate, Sugar, Spirits, and fresh Supply of China yearly	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>00</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	12	00	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
12	00	00					

To my Bed-Maker, I pay about 50 <i>s.</i> a Year; when married I must keep two Maid-Servants and a Man, whose Wages, and the Man's Livery, must at least come to 20 <i>l.</i> a Year; so that here is an extraordinary Expence of	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>10</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	17	10	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
17	10	00					

Coach and Chair-Hire for my Wife to make Visits, take the Air, to see Plays, &c. at a reasonable and yearly Computation	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>03</td><td>10</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	03	10	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
03	10	00					

Her Expences at those Diversions	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>03</td><td>10</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	03	10	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
03	10	00					

I now seldom go to see above a Play in a Year, I must in Complaisance to my Wife sometimes wait on her, and partake of those Entertainments (for it is not proper she should go alone) which I will moderately compute at	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>01</td><td>10</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	01	10	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
01	10	00					

It costs me now about 40 <i>s.</i> a Year in Coals, I am sure it must then cost me 10 <i>l.</i> so that here is another yearly Increase of Expence	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>08</td><td>00</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	08	00	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
08	00	00					

The same of Candles in Proportion	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>05</td><td>00</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	05	00	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
05	00	00					

My Wife's necessary wearing Apparel	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>30</td><td>00</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	30	00	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
30	00	00					

	<table border="0"><tr><td><i>l.</i></td><td><i>s.</i></td><td><i>d.</i></td></tr><tr><td>127</td><td>10</td><td>00</td></tr></table>	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	127	10	00
<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>					
127	10	00					

Having

Having a Family of my own, I shall diminish little or nothing else out of the Expences of my Dinners ; as to the Evening Expences, you know married Men go Abroad as often at that Time as Batchelors, and I won't promise to be more uxorious than my Neighbours ; so that instead of 25 *l.* a Year at the most it now costs me in Dinners, I shall have the following Bills to pay yearly, viz.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From the former Calculation	127	10	00
The Butcher	35	00	00
— Poulterer	10	00	00
— Fishmonger	06	00	00
— Herb-Woman	07	00	00
— Oylman	05	00	00
— Baker	08	00	00
— Brewer	10	00	00
— Grocer	06	00	00
— Confectioner	02	00	00
— Cheesemonger	04	00	00
Wine, Cyder, &c. at a moderate Computation	30	00	00
The Fruiterer	01	10	00
The Milk-Woman	01	00	00
Salt, Small-Coal, Rotten Stone, Brick-Dust, Sand,	02	00	00
Oat-Meal, Whiteing, and many other little Ingredients in House-keeping I am ignorant of			
	255	00	00

So that deducting thereout the 25 *l.* being the Charge of my Dinners, there will be a necessary additional Expence of

If my Wife pleases me, as I do not doubt but your Relation will, (I know my own Temper so well in that Respect, that) I shall be often making her Presents of either Rings, Jewels, Snuff-Boxes, Watch, Tweezers, some Knick-Knacks, and Things of that Nature, in which, one Year with another, I am sure I shall expend	05	00	00
---	----	----	----

Then

Brought forward 235 00 00
 Then comes an Article I least wish for, but happens
 in most Families, which is, the Expences of
 Doctor and Apothecary, and though it is acci-
 dental, yet one Year with another cannot come
 short of

As for Children, I dare say, our Attempts in that
 Respect will not prove fruitless, and that we may
 reasonably expect one in every two Years, if not of-
 tener, but it shall not be my fault if it does not.

The Expence of Lying-Inn, Child-Linen, Midwife,
 Nurses, Cawdles, Poffets, Cradle, Christenings,
 &c. must at least be 30*l.* so that if it should
 happen once in two Years, it may be reckoned
 a yearly Expence of

Nursing, Maintaining, Education, Cloaths, School-
 ing of our Children even in their Infancy, and
 which must be increased as they advance in Years,
 besides their Fortunes (which must be saved or got)
 at a random Calculation, and vastly less than I
 am satisfied it will be

Pew in the Church 02 00 00

Washing my Wife's and the Family Linen 08 00 00

Repairs of Furniture, new Brooms, Mops, Brushes,
 and Rubbers } 02 00 00

297 00 00

The Furniture of my House, and Table-Linen, cannot come out of 300*l.* which, with 50*l.* for Plate (without which, being a moderate a Quantity, I dare say my Wife, nor indeed should I myself be satisfied) will lie dead, daily decrease in its Value, and bring me in no Income; I must therefore reckon my Wife's Fortune (in point of its bringing me in a yearly Income) at no more than 1650*l.*

Now, Sir, as you have been a House-Keeper, and married these several Years, pray tell me, If in any one Article, I have charged too much? Whether if I have not rather under charged them, and omitted several? That I, not being acquainted with these sort Things, can have no Knowledge of.

If therefore it is a moderate Computation, and necessary, supposing Interest to continue at five *per Cent.* (which is unlikely) the produce of 1650*l.* is only 82*l.* 10*s.* and if it should fall to four *per Cent.* is only 66*l.* In the one Case, I must necessarily expend on my Wife 231*l.* 10*s.* in the other 215*l.* above the Income of the Fortune she brings, besides the Hazard and Want of Certainty for the Money, which ought to be considered, and though it be necessary, yet how reasonable it is, I submit to you.

These Things considered (and he that marries without previous Consideration acts very indiscreetly) I do not see how I can marry a Woman with the Fortune you propose, or that I should better my self at all by it, and in Prudence, People should do so, or let it alone; (not that I propose or think to have more) I must therefore live single, though with some Regret that I cannot do otherwise, and increase my own Fortune, which happens to be sufficient for my own Maintenance (till, if I may so call it) I can afford Matrimony.

I wish the Lady all Happiness and a better Husband, and if it be for her Satisfaction, one who has thought less of the Matter; not but that I have a very good Opinion of Matrimony, and think of it with Pleasure, as hoping one Time or other to enter into its List, but I now wait with Patience, till my Circumstances or Thoughts vary.

One Thing I would not have you mistaken in, is, that I do not mean that your Relation will be thus expensive to me, more than any other, only that whenever I marry, let her be who will, I must necessarily (if she has no more Fortune than I propose) expend considerably more than 200*l.* a Year on her above the Income of her Fortune, and at present I cannot persuade my self to be at so great an Expence, for the value of trying a dangerous Experiment, whether the Pleasures of Matrimony are yearly Worth that Sum? All which is submitted to your Consideration, by

SIR,

Your most Obliged

Humble Servant,

F I N I S.

